

Native American Heritage Month
Spotlight: Native Americans in STEM Fields



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As a young kid, I remember having a distinct interest in how things worked. My interest was so great, a few times I took apart my bike and pieced it back together, so I could understand the mechanics of the structure. When I discovered in high school I could turn my interest into a career, I knew I wanted to become a mechanical engineer. I was connected with a program for newly admitted students, which helped me transition into NAU college life. Being a first-generation college student, I was able to meet other students of color, get peer advising, and gain study strategies, all the tools to help me succeed in college.

Through all of this, I give credit to my parents and elders who instilled the Diné teachings of persevering and working hard. I continue to use these teachings in my life and appreciate where I come from (Sand Springs, AZ). As a proud Diné, I carry on the tradition of speaking, reading, and writing my language. Currently, I live with my wife in Salt Lake City. I am humbled to be working at Northrop Grumman, a place I get to be challenged and explore the vast world of mechanical engineering. I hope other kids of color are inspired to enter STEM fields, because it is fun.

For students who are looking into STEM fields I suggest to start preparing by finding pre-college programs, talking with STEM mentors, and searching for financial aid and scholarships.